

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4-12 remain pending in this application, wherein claims 1 and 4-12 are hereby amended and claims 2 and 3 are hereby canceled. No new matter has been added.

With regards to the objection to claim 6, claim 6 is amended to correct a grammatical error, and the amendment addresses the informality identified in the Office Action. Applicants request that the objection to claim 6 be withdrawn in light of the amendment.

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is moot as claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3 restated such that claim 1 is not rendered indefinite.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0040928 to Kasahara (“Kasahara”). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 as amended recites, “an input device that enters a work content of the construction work as prompted in a screen brought up on display,” and “a reception device that receives information indicating a plurality of types of devices matching the work content and rental information related to the devices which are searched at the server based upon the work content.” Kasahara relates to a system for renting clothes for children. Kasahara is silent regarding

a work content for construction work as recited in claim 10. Applicants submit that Kasahara does not anticipate claim 10 for at least this reason.

Claim 11 recites, “generating and displaying a screen in which a work content of the construction work is entered” and “receiving information indicating a plurality of types of devices matching the work content and rental information related to the devices, which are searched based upon the transmitted work content.” Claim 12 recites a rental information acquisition server for devices used in construction work, having “a database in which information indicating at least a plurality of types of devices and rental information corresponding to the devices are stored in memory in correspondence to a work content of the construction work.”

As discussed with regards to claim 10, Kasahara discloses a system for renting clothes for children and is silent regarding a work content related to construction work. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kasahara does not anticipate claims 11 and 12 for reasons similar to those discussed above regarding claim 10.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasahara in view of Japanese Patent Document 2002-157302 to Fukushima et al. (“Fukushima”). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasahara. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 5 are amended to further clarify the interactive method/system of the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a rental estimation method including a management server having first, second, and third databases as follows:

- a first database in which work contents are stored in hierarchical layers of a major division, a division and a sub-division, and in which a list of a plurality of necessary devices corresponding to each work content is stored.
- a second database in which rental information with regard to rental devices is stored; and
- a third database in which specification information with regard to the rental devices is stored.

Kasahara discloses a system related to renting clothes for children. In the Office Action, Fukushima is only cited for disclosure of “a system that lists only the necessary devices required to perform the work described to it by the user.”¹ The combination of Kasahara and Fukushima does not teach or suggest including the first, second, and third databases as recited in claim 1, wherein in the first database, the work contents are stored in hierarchical layers to facilitate selection of the rental devices. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kasahara and Fukushima.

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Claim 4 depending from claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kasahara and Fukushima at least by way virtue of the dependency of claim 4 from independent claim 1.

Independent claim 5, as amended, recites a rental estimation system having a first, second, and third database, wherein in the first database, "work contents are stored in hierarchical layers of a major division, a division and a sub-division, and in which list of a plurality of necessary devices matching a work content is stored." The features recited in claim 5 are similar to those recited in claim 1. Claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kasahara and Fukushima for reasons similar to those given for claim 1 above.

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasahara in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0013712 to Nishiyama ("Nishiyama"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kasahara and Fukushima. The Office Action only cites Nishiyama for the disclosure of a rental period adjustment function. Nishiyama does not cure the deficiencies in the combination of Kasahara and Fukushima regarding the features recited in claim 5 and discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kasahara, Fukushima, and Nishiyama. Claims 6-9 are patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kasahara, Fukushima, and

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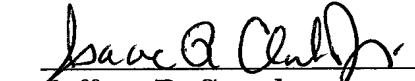
Nishiyama at least by virtue of their respective direct and indirect dependencies from claim 5.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 101790.56290US).

Respectfully submitted,

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